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SOURCE Pravda.

ENGINEER PROPOSES METAL-SAVING PLAN;  
OTHERS CRITICIZE STEEL STANDARDS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The existing State All-Union Standards for rolled steel and the current list of wholesale prices for ordinary grades of steel do not encourage metallurgical plants to economize on metal in producing rolled products. Rather, by their margin of allowances, they make it possible for these plants to roll and sell steel which, in the actual weight of the finished product, is far above the theoretical weight. An outstanding example of this waste of metal is the profiles rolled by the Nizhne-Dneprovskiy Plant for steel casements. The excess of the actual weight of these profiles above the theoretical weight is as high as 40 percent. Permissible allowances for the width of angle steel makes it possible to exceed the theoretical weight by 6-16 percent, and in sheet steel by 5-16 percent.

In cases where the payment for rolled steel is based on actual weight of the product, metallurgical plants find it advantageous to utilize permissible allowances to the full. This is one of the methods by which the highest indexes for plan fulfillment are achieved. The price list for common-grade steel provides that, where both parties are agreed, angle steel rolled with precision to the customer's order can be supplied, but an additional payment of 15 percent is levied. Certainly such economy in metal should not have to be paid for. This same price list allows an excess of 3-14 percent above the theoretical figure in the actual weight of sheet steel, depending on its width and gauge.

Reduction of this type of waste would provide a considerable increase in the quantity of metal available to industry and construction. Effecting this economy would demand immediate adoption of a number of organizational and technical measures. All allowances in rolling every type of steel profile should be immediately reviewed in order to impose substantial limitations on them and decrease the margin of allowances all the way down the line. The metallurgical plants should be provided with an incentive for producing rolled

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products according to the so-called minus allowances, and this incentive should consist of a change in the method of paying for rolled steel. Rolled steel supplied in regular sizes (which includes the greater part of steel used for construction, machine building, and ship building) should be paid for according to its theoretical weight; that is, by the number of meters of length of angles, beams, and girders in each size category, and by the square meter of area of sheet steel in each gauge category. Adoption of these measures would release no less than 5 percent of rolled steel. In absolute figures, this would equal the annual consumption of the main construction ministry, the Ministry of the Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises. -- Engr B. Belayev, Laureate of the Stalin Prize (1)

B. Belyayev's letter of 8 April has evoked much interest among engineering and technical workers, many of whom have written letters to Pravda upholding his proposal. Sakhnovskiy, Laureate of the Stalin Prize and Chief Technologist at the Dnepropetrovsk Steel Structures Plant imeni V. M. Molotov, in his letter mentions the tremendous waste of metal due to the large allowances permitted in producing rolled products. By eliminating the excess allowances, the steel structures plant could annually save as much metal as is used in the steel framework of the high building under construction on Smolensk Square in Moscow. The saving throughout the entire country would thus be tremendous. Sakhnovskiy also suggests that the payment for rolled products and fulfillment of plans by metallurgical enterprises should be based on the theoretical and not on the actual weight of the product.

The same opinion is expressed by a group of technologists at the Toretzkiy Machine-Building Plant. They state that there has long been a need for establishing a standard whereby utilization of these great reserves of metal, which have been almost untouched, could be realized without artificially raising the cost to the consumers. This opinion is based on facts from the plant's own experience. The plant's annual metal fund is figured on the basis of the norms for each product. These norms do not account for any allowances. At the same time, the supplying enterprises -- the Makeyevka Plant imeni Kirov, and others -- deliver metal products which exceed the theoretical weight by as much as 7 percent, and they do this without violating the present standards for rolled steel. If the plant obtained metal products rolled with minus allowances, it could produce annually an additional 10,000 mine cars or 70,000 steel mine supports merely from the saving in weight of the metal. The "Serp i molot" Plant has been delivering metal products rolled with minus allowances, whereas the Makeyevka, the Yenakiyevo, and other plants have not.

A letter from the engineers of "Tsentrproektstroy" [Central Planning of Special Construction Projects] of the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry USSR states that the problem of metal standards also concerns the supply of seamless steel pipe produced by plants of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry. In the hundreds of kilometers of oil pipe line and water mains laid each year in the USSR, the overexpenditure of metal per kilometer in many cases is as high as 15 tons. The cause of this waste is the fact that the standards for pipe production permit large allowances above the theoretical weight of the product, and plans are allowed to be fulfilled on this basis.

A parallel case is the output of seamless rolled wheels produced by the Nizhne-Dneprovskiy Metallurgical Plant imeni K. Libknekht. The plant is allowed to figure fulfillment of the plan by the actual weight of the wheels. A plant inspector for the Ministry of Transportation reports that in one year the plant wastes nearly 2,200 tons of steel in producing wheel disks. Approximately 5,000 wheels could be made from this wasted metal.

All these facts indicate that the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry USSR and the Administration for Standardization should have seriously considered and tried to find an answer to the problems raised by these Soviet engineers. Ravdel', chief of the technical administration, has kept silent on the issue.

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while Gorfinkel', engineer of "Glavmetallobyt," has openly come out against rolling metal with minus allowances, calling it unrealistic. As a result, this valuable proposal for saving metal remains unused. The ministry and the Administration for Standardization, despite the valuable initiative of stakh-anovites and of such large-scale enterprises as the Kuznetsk Combine in effecting great savings in metal, are not taking the necessary measures to introduce this initiative into all enterprises of the metallurgical industry.(2)

The Zhdanov Pipe-Rolling Plant, following the proposal of one of its workers, is now developing a system of incentives for rolling metal with minus allowances. The rolling of pipe according to the minus allowances has helped decrease the weight of the pipe per running meter by 0.6 kilogram. In this way, the plant was able to produce thousands of running meters of pipe from the steel saved, during the first quarter alone. The leading shift rolled an additional 3,000 meters of pipe during that period.(3)

## SOURCES

1. Pravda, No 98, 8 Apr 50
2. Pravda, No 140, 20 May 50
3. Pravda, No 134, 14 May 50

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